

## Fleeing the Island of Austerity – European Ships of Hope

By Tim Phoetist

In the most recent LIN edition I discussed the “attractions” of the Island of Austerity.

Austerity, of course, is nothing more than a virtual island of despair, invented by those with a personal and self serving interest in the accumulation of political and financial power.

Austerity is the economic island to which the citizens of developed societies are being shipped. Robbed of the benefits of life savings and pensions, Austerity gives a new 21<sup>st</sup> century meaning to the understanding of forced and slave labour, while at the same time removing any concept of economic and communal fairness from the social/economic dictionary.

Too sweeping a statement, you say.

Put that thought to today’s “retired” guardians of the multi-national “Big Box” retail stores who greet you with waxy smiles and bent backs.

Put the thought that you have not already arrived on the Island of Austerity, to the hapless and hopeless teen, begging on Main Street, whose youthful energy is now valued only by other lost souls who find themselves floating in a toxic sea of drugs and alcohol – their only objective and escape being to find a transport to the Island of Oblivion.

Here in western Canada we find ourselves in the more sheltered regions of Austerity Island. The bloody economic talons of the capital groupings will not risk puncturing and damaging the pipes and structures that carry the Canadian oil and minerals, sold to support the lives of today’s “haves” at the expense of today’s “have-nots”.

So, here in Canada, and on Vancouver Island, we benefit from the shelter provided by the massive pipelines built by the petrochemical and mineral mining industries.

But just peek over the pipeline and it’s

easy to see the scorched earth that is the reality of Austerity Island.

The lifetime work product of ordinary people, destroyed by banks and money lenders, their possessions thrown, as tasty appetizers, to self styled “billionaires”.

It is preposterous to imagine that the wealth and potential of this planet is suddenly endangered unless the work product of 99% of humans is captured and ordered by a pitiful and pitiless 1% of the planet’s population.

By any standard, the international policies and agreements that have invented Austerity Isle have been shown to be a fraud on people, societies and labour, on a scale never previously imagined. Truly the globalization of public fraud.

But there is hope on the horizon.

Rescue ships flying French, Greek and Spanish flags, to single out just a few, are looking for some safe water to drop anchor.

These ships will offer only triage, in practical terms, but more broadly they offer hope.

Hope that the thieves of our labour will soon be deprived of the means by which they can steal from our pay packets, foreclose our homes, deny our healthcare, drug our children and restrict information and education.

The European Ships of Hope are still few in number and can be easily holed, but their sails are filled by the winds of change and the will of populations who clearly see that the virtual Island of Austerity imprisons them with very real rocks.

In today’s developed societies we have relied on a democratic process to protect us from dictators and despots. We’ve believed the cry “throw the bums out”, will stir and protect us, as the ballot box replaces the guillotine in displacing those who would steal from the populace to convey public wealth and communal labour to private

hands.

But the ever mutating cancer of inappropriate private interest – simple greed – has been as busy as ever, finding new ways to eat at progressive societies.

In the past 50 years we’ve been slow to spot that our democratic systems have become the very device that can destroy civilized life.

By inventing outrageously complicated economic, monetary and legal systems, which are designed only to ensure that the inherent wealth of the planet and the labour of the populations is enjoyed by very few, we’ve made it increasingly difficult to fulfill the purpose of “democracy” – i.e. to be able to remove despots from power via the ballot box.

By electing governments and politicians who then contract out the work of government to private enterprise, we negate the entire concept of democratic government, replaceable by the will of the majority of voters.

The cry of the rulers of Austerity is that somehow private economic interests will give you a better “bang for your buck” than publically provided goods and services.

That the only thing stopping Austerity from becoming Utopia is public spending!

This is simply not true.

Look what private enterprise has delivered. Increasing poverty, unaffordable necessities, scarce housing, expensive healthcare, failing schools, unattainable and often irrelevant higher education and social misery that reminds of Dickensian times.

And the privately wealthy have never been richer – ever increasingly from income that could never have been earned in a million lifetimes.

The Island of Austerity was invented to remove increasing numbers of people from any hope or prospect of their reasonable expectation of a pursuit of happiness.

So now is the time to look at how some western European societies are responding to their governments. The idea is to install politicians who are increasingly separated from private interests. It’s not easy. The system is deeply rooted in anti-public interests, but progress can be made.

Here in Canada it’s easy to spot the politicians of whom we should beware, and for whom we should deny elected office.

Do not vote for any candidate who suggests that Austerity will bring economic balance.

Do not vote for any candidate who seeks to privatize or share any public good or service.

Do not vote for any candidate who resists the idea of nationalizing vital local and national resources.

Do not vote for any candidate who says we cannot afford to feed and house the weak, sick, young or elderly.

Do not vote for any candidate who says that reducing taxes will bring a richer society.

Do not vote for any candidate whose standing is financed by private interests.

Nowhere in the developed world have policies of Austerity succeeded in bringing a healthier, happier, richer society. Nowhere in the developed world has unrestrained and unregulated private enterprise brought fairer, saner, distribution of resources.

Here in British Columbia we are on the sheltered shores of Austerity but the toxic tide of unrestrained capital abuse is lapping at the shores, nonetheless.

Read the signals from the European Ships of Hope. Unlike the tides that Canute knew he could not stop, the tides and swells on the shores of Austerity are virtual and man-made.

Some strong votes against private politicians and for the voices that make social justice and community, a priority, will drain this tsunami of capitalistic greed we’ve come to know as Austerity politics.

## US global dominion made of idolatry

By Bo Filter

Did you know that Iran was behind 9/11? This is the latest wild claim by the US government (see [www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=30777](http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=30777)).

Why is it that just about anyone can be blamed for 9/11? Usually, they are the next target country of the US elitist’s drive for world hegemony.

How do they get away with the most obvious lies? The answer rests in the fact that the national security state has discovered a dirty little secret—the American public doesn’t mind being fed lies.

Most people will tell you that they hate being lied to, yet something carries greater importance than being deceived. Though seldom a point in political polemics, a great trump card is at play—radical nationalism—America the beautiful. Americans idolize America.

You can see it at work in the most simple of conversations. When casually asked about politics, people most often answer that they don’t pay attention much to politics. If you ask why, the most likely answer is, “All politicians are crooks.” They are therefore unworthy of attention.

Now you might think that this response could engender an invitation to mention a crime committed by the government, expecting the listener to readily agree—not so. When a crime is mentioned, the trump card comes down hard: “America, love it, or leave it! Go back to Russia where you belong!”

Dominance of value is quickly displayed. Lying and crime by the government is not important, as is love of country. America is to be idolized. No matter what the government actually does in the world, no matter how many international laws it breaks, no matter how many countries it attacks, you must remain silent or risk being called a traitor or miscreant.

Hitler spawned and spread this same kind of radical nationalism. Germany was idolized. In every case in history of national idolatry, wars of aggression have ensued. The idolatrous nation feels exceptional, too important to be confined to international treatise of peace and conduct. American

“exceptionalism” has been used to excuse their interference in the affairs of literally every country on the planet.

The statement that all politicians are crooks, tempered by idolatry, becomes more like: they are our crooks; therefore, they are the exception, exempt from prosecution.

Exceptionalism, as a tool of exoneration, is augmented by another fundamental belief of idolatry—America can do no wrong. These people believe that their country would never commit a crime, no matter how much hard evidence is presented to them.

For example, when easily proven evidence was evoked to show that the G.W. Bush administration was indisputably involved in the commission of 9/11, one American chortled, “I don’t care if it’s true, I won’t believe it anyway.” This is not an uncommon response.

The long and short of it is that blind faith trumps truth. Lies and associated criminal behaviour are set free to roam. In such instances, the collective national moral compass goes haywire, no north and south poles to hinge and correct ship direction.

The United States is no exception. America is loose of any international moral mooring.

When critical moral bonds are broken and rabid nationalism takes hold, no one is safe. The US *Patriot Acts* and Canada’s anti-terrorist legislation makes this very clear.

Not long ago, anyone who dared to question Hitler was arrested and imprisoned or killed without

any Constitutional protection. Anyone who questions or worse protests US/NATO/Canadian wars of aggression are now included as potential terrorists.

Like Germany, the US is preparing for mass arrests of its own citizens.

US Army Field Manual 3-39.40, entitled, INTERNMENT AND RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS, published in February 2012, details procedures for making new prisons for protestors and anyone who questions US hegemony. Military bases are being converted for this purpose. Some are euphemistically named Residential Centers.

Former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura took his research team to film one of these Residential Centers, ([www.brasschecktv.com/page/9312.html](http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/9312.html)).

Once a US military base with razor wire angled outwards to prevent entry, the wire had been re-angled inwardly to disallow exit, like Hitler’s concentration camp, Auschwitz.

Like Germans who pretended that exterminations were not taking place, Americans and Canadians might likewise calm themselves with fantasies that all is well and peaceful on the Western front.

Rabid nationalism can help calm pangs of guilt. Idolaters often pronounce, “They must have had it coming.”

Will you be one of them?

Bo Filter is a veteran social science researcher, speaker, and author of *The Cause of Wars and Aggression: Book 1* [www.globaljusticepublishing.com](http://www.globaljusticepublishing.com)

*“Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.”*

-- Ernest Hemingway

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